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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SUDAN: ETHIOPIAN CRISIS ABATES

EMBASSY KHARTOUM REPORTS THAT TENSION BETWEEN SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA SEEMS TO BE ABATING. THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO KHARTOUM ON JANUARY 12, AND TOLD AMBASSADOR BREWER HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO APPROACH THE GOS TO SEE IF BORDER FRICTIONS CAN BE REDUCED. MEANWHILE, NIMEIRI'S CAMPAIGN TO RALLY SUPPORT FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES APPEARS TO HAVE SLACKENED. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT HAVING MADE--IF NOT OVERSTATED--ITS CASE, THE GOS NOW DESIRES TO LOWER THE TENSION. HOWEVER, IT CAUTIONS THAT
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THE EASING OF THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS DOES NOT MEAN A LESS-ENING OF NIMEIRI'S SUSPICION OF LIBYAN MACHINATIONS ON HIS BORDERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 118, 1/13.)

2. LONDON VENUE KEY TO GISCARD'S SUMMIT STRATEGY

AN ELYSEE OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY PARIS THAT

GISCARD'S SUGGESTION FOR HOLDING THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN LONDON WAS A SPONTANEOUS AND WHOLLY FRENCH IDEA. IT STEMMED FROM GISCARD'S:

--INTEREST IN PREEMPTING AN FRG VENUE, WHERE THE GERMAN MIGHT BE LESS WILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS HELPFUL TO THE BRITISH, ITALIAN, AND FRENCH ECONOMIES;

--BELIEF THAT A LONDON SUMMIT WOULD FOCUS ATTENTION ON EUROPE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WHILE PROVIDING A FILLIP TO BRITISH MORALE; AND

--DESIRE TO EMPHASIZE THE BRITISH ROLE IN EUROPE, IN ORDER TO HELP OFFSET FRG PREDOMINANCE.

THE ELYSEE BELIEVES THE BRITISH HAVE GRASPED THE ADVANTAGES OF HOSTING THE SUMMIT, AND ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 1256 (EXDIS), 1/13.)

3. ARGENTINA: HARDLINERS WAITING IN THE WINGS

ARGENTINA'S NEW PLANNING MINISTER DIAZ BESSONE TOLD AMBASSADOR HILL JANUARY 10 THAT HARDLINERS WHO FEAR A RESURGENCE OF A POLITICIZED LABOR MOVEMENT WILL FORCE CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT BY MID-1977 "AT THE LATEST." HE SAID THE VACILLATING STYLE OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP CANNOT CONTINUE, AND IMPLIED THAT BOTH ARMY CHIEF VIOLA AND JUNTA PRESIDENT VIDELA MAY BE FORCED TO STEP DOWN.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: DIAZ BESSONE IS AMBITIOUS AND CONFIDENT, IF NOT PARTICULARLY DISCREET. IF THE CHANGES HE PREDICTS DO OCCUR, HE COULD PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THEM. (SECRET) BUENOS AIRES 284, 1/13.)

4. YUGOSLAV INTELLECTUAL VIEWS TITO SUCCESSION

DISSIDENT PROFESSOR MIHAJLO MARKOVIC HAS TOLD EMBASSY BELGRADE HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO WILL SUCCEED TITO AS YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT, BUT THAT IT WILL NOT BE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHIEF DOLANC. MARKOVIC BELIEVES DOLANC'S POWER ACTUALLY RESTS ON HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MARSHAL, AND WILL DIMINISH RATHER THAN INCREASE AFTER TITO. HE ARGUES THAT POWER BELOW THE GOY'S TOP LEVEL RESTS WITH THE REPUBLICS, AND THAT DOLANC LACKS A POLITICAL BASE IN HIS NATIVE SLOVENIA DESPITE EFFORTS BY KARDELJ TO HELP HIM BUILD UP HIS INFLUENCE THERE. CONTRARY TO SOME OTHER ANALYSES, MARKOVIC SAYS DOLANC DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MARKOVIC IS A PERCEPTIVE OBSERVER WITH
TITO. (CONFIDENTIAL) BELGRADE 198, 1/13.)

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5. BRITISH UNIONS LOSING PATIENCE WITH LABOR LEFT

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT A GROWING RESTIVENESS AMONG
TRADE UNION LEADERS AT THE LEFTIST DRIFT OF THE LABOR
PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) BOILED OVER
JANUARY 11 INTO SHARP CRITICISM OF THE NEC AT A MEETING
CALLED TO DISCUSS PARTY FINANCES. MINERS' PRESIDENT JOE
GORMLEY AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS BLASTED THE NEC FOR ITS
CONTINUING OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT ON CRITICAL ISSUES
AND ITS FAILURE TO COUNTER PENETRATION BY EXTREME LEFT-
ISTS. A MAJORITY OF THE UNION REPRESENTATIVES AT THE
MEETING MADE CLEAR THAT THE NEC'S ATTACKS ON THE SOCIAL
CONTRACT WERE JEOPARDIZING THE UNION CONTRIBUTIONS ON
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WHICH THE PARTY'S FINANCES DEPEND.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR JUST HOW DEEP IT
GOES, BUT THE UNIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY UPSET AT THE UNSEEMLY
IMAGE OF A PARTY EXECUTIVE AT ODDS WITH ITS OWN GOVERNMENT.
THE NEC CANNOT IGNORE THIS WARNING SHOT ACROSS ITS BOWS,
OR IT WILL RISK A MUCH SHARPER CHALLENGE TO ITS LEADER-
SHIP. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 634, 1/13.)
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